NIH Research Week 2014 Poster Competition
Abstract Submission Form

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DECLARATION FOR ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

By submitting the abstract, I declare that:

1. The abstract is an original work of the authors listed.
2. The abstract has NOT been presented / published in any international / national conference.
3. The first author / presenting author will be attending the NIH Scientific Seminar to present the poster if the abstract is shortlisted.

Full Name: DR. JUANITA HALILI
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Please email completed form together with the abstract to researchweek14@moh.gov.my on or before October 1st, 2014.
TITLE: Near Miss Alerts: Enhance Patient Safety

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ABSTRACT:

Background
A near miss is any incident caused by healthcare management that could have led to harm but did not. Near misses are potential adverse events. This study aimed to determine the magnitude and type of near misses in Ministry of Health (MOH) hospitals in Malaysia.

Methods
A retrospective analysis of medical records was conducted in eight MOH hospitals randomly selected from 120 MOH hospitals in 2006. This consisted of four non-specialist and four specialist hospitals, and 160 admissions were randomly selected from each. A total of 19 expert panels from the disciplines of Medicine, O&G, Paediatrics, Surgery, Orthopaedics, Ophthalmology and ENT assessed the medical records in pairs for near misses in medical records from their respective specialty. The assessment form used in this study was modified from several international classifications of errors and we developed a self-contained teaching module on how to use it. The near misses were categorised by the event type, contributing factor and degree of preventability.
Results
We found 69.7% of admissions in non-specialist hospitals and 49.7% of admissions in medical discipline of specialist hospitals had one or more near miss incidents. The majority of near misses occurred at the stage of clinical management; patients received unnecessary medication, procedures or investigations resulting in a near miss. Near misses were mainly contributed by human and performance factors. Almost all near misses were deemed preventable.

Conclusion
Near misses are potential adverse events and are common occurrences in MOH hospitals. Strategies are needed to address and reduce near misses among inpatients for patient safety. Regular audits of medical records can be used to identify and address event characteristics and contributing factors that are known to lead to near misses.

Keywords
Near miss; error; preventability; hospitals; Malaysia

(282 words)